

The True Light

We continue our series of lessons introducing the Vision 2022 theme. What does it mean to *Fix Our Eyes on Jesus*? As we define that, it is important to begin by asking, “Who is Jesus?” In John 1.1-18 we find two basic truths: (1) 1.1 - the Word was God. (2) 1.14 - The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. Everything we are and believe as Christians hinges on these two statements. If last week we learned that the light reveals our mission, this week we will learn about the genuineness or authenticity of the light. We can respond in two ways to that Light. We can reject it or receive and believe in it.

I. John 1.9: Jesus is the True Light that Brings Light to Everyone.

- A. John 1:9: *The true light that gives **light** to everyone was coming into the world.*
- B. Its Nature: This is spiritual light. Connect 1.4: *In him was life, and that life was the **light of men**.*
 - 1. Jesus — life-giving light — seeks out a world lost in darkness.
 - 2. John 1:5: That light shines in the darkness, and yet the darkness did not overcome it.
- C. Its Authenticity: 1.9: Jesus is the **true** light.
 - 1. Genuine. Legitimate.
 - 2. Jesus is the pre-eminent, all glorious revelation of God in the flesh.
 - a) Hebrews 1.3: *The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the **exact expression** of his nature, sustaining all things by his powerful word.*
 - 3. Exclusivity. He is the ONLY light. John 8.12: *I am the light of the world. Anyone who follows me will never walk in the darkness but will have the light of life.*
- D. It’s Result: 1.9: The light Jesus brings, enlightens **everyone**.
 - 1. Isaiah 49:6b: *I will also make you a light for the nations, to be my salvation to the ends of the earth.*
 - 2. In Romans 1.20b Paul proclaims: *people are without excuse.*
 - 3. John 1.9 - *it gives light...* continuous verb tense; Just like 1.5 - *the light shines in the darkness...*

II. John 1.10-11 - The Majority Rejected the Light.

- A. How was the Lord’s love received?
 - 1. John 1.5: *yet the darkness did not **overcome** it.*
 - 2. John 1.10: *He was in the world, and the world was created through him, and yet the world did not recognize him.*
 - 3. John 1.11: *He came to his own, and his own people did not **receive** him.* The ultimate indignity.
- B. Why do so many reject the Lord’s love?
 - 1. Zechariah 7.12: *They made their hearts like a **rock** so as not to obey the law or the words that the Lord of Armies had sent by his Spirit through the earlier prophets.*
 - 2. People refuse to fear the Lord, reject His counsel, refuse His correction... These will *eat the fruit of their way and be gluttoned with their own schemes.*

III. John 1.12: Believers Accepted the Light.

- A. John 1.12: *But to all who did receive him, he gave them the right to be children of God, to those who believe in his name...*
 - 1. We must receive Him. Welcome Jesus into your entire life for what He is.
 - 2. Must believe **in His name**. A term that emphasizes the dignity and authority of a person
 - 3. “Receiving” and “Believing” Not just intellectual agreement to the truth...

IV. As We Close...

- A. 1.12: Those who have received and believed in His name ...*have the right to be children of God.*
- B. 1.13: are *Born of **God**.*
- C. God is very desirous to make you his. Do you believe?